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(*d*) whether it is a fact that reports of the beating of convicts by warders were made to the Superintendent of the Jail and the Inspector-General of Prisons;

(*e*) if so, whether any action was taken by the authorities concerned on the said reports, and if not, why not;

(*f*) whether the Government propose to inquire into such cases of beating and take suitable action against its recurrence;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that when the Inspector-General of Prisons visited the Jail in September last, reports of cases of beating of convicts were reported to him by one A. Subbayya on behalf of the convicts;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the Inspector-General of Prisons replied that the convicts deserved no better treatment; and if not, what was the reply given by the Inspector-General of Prisons to the said A. Subbayya, and why?

A.—A report has been called for.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I enquire, Sir, why there are such inordinate delays in the receipt of reports upon such important matters?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"There is no delay at all. As a matter of fact, it is out of respect to my hon. Friend that I did not keep this question pending till I received final answer. I wanted to give the information which was in my power as early as possible."

Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari:—"When does the hon. the Law Member expect to get the reply?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I cannot say."

Alleged racial discrimination among convicts in the Madras Penitentiary.

*264 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that racial discrimination is being shown between 'B' class Indian prisoners and 'C' class European and Anglo-Indian prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary in the matter of supply of cots;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that while the Superintendent refused to provide 'B' class Indian convicts with cots, he provided cots for 'C' class European and Anglo-Indian prisoners; and

(*c*) if so, what are the reasons for such differential treatment?

A.—(*a*) to (*c*) The information has been called for.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Has it been received since?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"No, Sir."

Alleged ill-health of prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

*265 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary are suffering from diseases relating to the anus;

(*b*) what are the reasons; why the prisoners suffered from such diseases and whether the same have been investigated; and

(*c*) what action has been taken by the Superintendent or the Jail Doctor to cure the convicts of such diseases?

A.—The Government have no information. They will call for it.

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Alleged refusal of drinking water to political convicts in the Madras Penitentiary.

* 266 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Madras Penitentiary has made it a rule that political convicts who go on hunger strike as a protest against their ill-treatment should be refused drinking water; and

(*b*) if so, under what law and rule such action is taken?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" How is it, Sir, that the Government have no information with regard to clause (*a*)?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The question is—

' whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Madras Penitentiary has made it a rule that political convicts who go on hunger strike as a protest against their ill-treatment should be refused drinking water.'

The answer is definite: ' No, he has not made any such rule'."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I enquire, Sir, whether it is a fact that in the presence of Rao Bahadur Ranganatham Chettiyar, the Superintendent said that he would stop giving drinking water to convicts who go on hunger strike?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am not aware of any such incident."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to call for a report from Rao Bahadur Ranganatham Chettiyar, a non-official visitor to jails?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" If he is willing to give one, will he call for it?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, the gentleman can send his report if he wants."

Alleged ill-health of Mr. M. Purushothama Sarma.

* 267 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the continued illness extending over eight months of Mr. Mangipudi Purushothama Sarma of West Godavari in the Vellore Jail and the measures, if any, taken by the jail authorities to restore him to health or release him on medical grounds; and

(*b*) whether any representations were made to the Government urging care and attention to the jail authorities to the above gentleman's illness; and, if so, by whom and to what effect?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 317.